

**Ministry of Tourism,
Culture and Sport**

Sport, Recreation and
Community Programs Division

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de la Culture et du Sport**

Division des sports, des loisirs et
programmes communautaires

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May 10, 2013

Mr. Ron Gallen
President
Boxing Ontario
7610 Watson Street
Niagara Falls ON L2H 1E2

Dear Mr. Gallen:

Re: Combative Sport Provincial Sport Organizations ("Combative Sport PSOs")
sanctioned events

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (the "Ministry") has issued this letter to clarify the roles and responsibilities of recognized Combative Sport PSOs. Recognized Combative Sport PSOs are responsible for governing their respective combative sports and for sanctioning related competitions.

PSOs may circulate this letter to inform their members, affiliates and the general public about:

- which recognized PSO represents each combative sport discipline;
- their role and responsibility to sanction events;
- health and safety benefits of participating in PSO sanctioned events; and
- the value for athletes, especially younger participants, to compete in sanctioned events.

The Ministry, through its programs and services, supports recognized Combative Sport PSOs as leaders in the provincial amateur sport system. Recognized Combative Sport PSOs are responsible for sanctioning combative sport events and abiding by sport safety policies and competition rules prescribed by national and international sport governing bodies.

Currently, the Ministry recognizes eight Combative Sport PSOs as the single governing bodies for their respective sport disciplines. They are:

Sport Discipline	Recognized Provincial Sport Organizations (PSOs)
Kickboxing Amateur Mixed Martial Arts	Kickboxing Ontario
Wrestling	Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association
Boxing	Boxing Ontario
Jiu-Jitsu	Ontario Jiu-Jitsu Association
Karate	Karate Ontario
Wushu	Wushu Ontario
Tae Kwon Do	Ontario Tae Kwon Do Association
Judo	Judo Ontario

At the current time, the Ministry does not recognize a Combative Sport PSO for Muay Thai. Kickboxing Ontario is the only recognized Combative Sport PSO for Amateur Mixed Martial Arts (AMMA) and is the sanctioning body for AMMA competitions in Ontario.

Competitions that are not organized by a recognized Combative Sport PSO, for an assigned sport discipline, are classified as unsanctioned events. Unsanctioned events may not meet health and safety policies or competition rules equivalent to those prescribed by national and international sport governing bodies.

The Office of the Athletics Commissioner (OAC), which regulates professional boxing, kick-boxing and mixed martial arts, recognizes the important role played by PSOs and potential risks that may be associated with unsanctioned amateur events in Ontario. For that reason, the OAC has a policy that the Commissioner reserves the right to revoke or cancel the licence of any professional fighter or official who participates in unsanctioned events in Ontario. For more information about the OAC policy, visit the Ministry of Consumer's website at: <http://www.sse.gov.on.ca/mcs/en/pages/default.aspx>

Recognized Combative Sport PSOs are responsible to:

- develop and deliver programs and competitions in a safe amateur sport system;
- meet current organizational, technical and safety standards;
- raise awareness about the value of participating in Combative Sport PSO programs; and
- offer age appropriate athlete development opportunities.

The Ministry is supportive of athletes participating in sanctioned competitions organized by recognized Combative PSOs in Ontario.

For any further information on the Sport Recognition Policy, please contact the appropriate Combative Sports Consultant at the Ministry.

Sincerely,



Susan Golets, Director
Sport, Recreation and Community Programs Division

- c: Matthew Kennedy, Executive Director, Boxing Ontario
Sarah Love, Sport and Recreation Consultant, MTCS